



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,489	11/11/2003	Albrecht Weiss	5005.1065	5102
7278 7590 01/29/2007 DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			EXAMINER PRITCHETT, JOSHUA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2872	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/29/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/705,489	Applicant(s) WEISS, ALBRECHT	
	Examiner Joshua L. Pritchett	Art Unit 2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 November 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed January 3, 2007. Claims 1, 5, 18-22 and 24-27 are amended as requested by the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 11-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leiter (US 5,022,744).

Regarding claims 1 and 19, Leiter teaches a microscope comprising a light source (2) including a control device configured to control an intensity of light emitted by the light source (col. 4 lines 1-3); an illumination optical system having a numerical aperture and being configured to illuminate a specimen (part of microscope (1); Fig. 1); an aperture device (25) disposed in an illumination beam path and configured to modify the numerical aperture (col. 4 lines 1-3); a spectral correction device (4) disposed in the illumination beam path (Fig. 1) and configured to correct a change in a spectral intensity distribution of the light emitted by the light source so that a spectral intensity distribution of light directed onto the specimen remains

Art Unit: 2872

substantially unchanged (col. 3 lines 41-64); a control unit (23) configured to concurrently control the control device (25) and the spectral correction device (8) so that, upon a change in the numerical aperture, both a light flux through the illuminating optical system and a spectral intensity distribution of light directed onto the specimen remain substantially unchanged (col. 3 line 41 – col. 4 line 6).

Regarding claim 2, Leiter teaches the control device is configured to change the spectral intensity distribution of the light emitted by the light source (col. 3 lines 41-64).

Regarding claims 3 and 20, Leiter teaches a light sensitive detector (19 and 20) in the illumination beam path (Fig. 1) and configured to detect at least a portion of the light flux through the illuminating optical system and generate, as a function of the detected light flux, a signal that is usable for open-loop or closed-loop control of at least one of the light source and/or of the spectral correction device (col. 3 lines 41-64).

Regarding claim 4, Leiter teaches the aperture device includes an aperture having a changeable diameter (col. 4 lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 5, Leiter teaches the diameter of the aperture is changeable by a motor (26).

Regarding claims 7, 21 and 27, Leiter teaches the spectral correction device includes a filter (7 and 8) disposable in the illumination beam path, the filter having a plurality of working positions, a filter characteristic of the filter being a function of the respective working positions (col. 3 lines 41-64).

Art Unit: 2872

Regarding claim 11, Leiter disclose a spectral transmittance of the filter changes at least one of continuously and discontinuously (col. 3 lines 41-64). The spectral transmittance of the filter changes discontinuously as it is moved with respect to the beam path.

Regarding claim 12, Leiter teaches the spectral transmittance of the filter changes in stepped fashion (col. 3 lines 41-64). The transmittance of the filter changes in step fashion by having one red filter, one blue filter and no filter between the red and blue filter.

Regarding claim 13, Leiter teaches the spectral correction device is capable of changing a spectral intensity distribution of the light from the light source by a motion of the spectral correction device relative to the illumination beam path (col. 3 lines 41-64).

Regarding claims 14 and 22, Leiter teaches a motor (9) configured to move the spectral correction device.

Regarding claims 15 and 23, Leiter teaches the spectral correction device includes a linearly displaceable filter (col. 2 lines 36-38).

Regarding claims 16 and 24, Leiter disclose respective intensities of the light emitted by the light source and respective working positions of the filter are predeterminable and storable as a function of respective settings of the aperture device (col. 3 lines 32-40).

Regarding claim 17, Leiter teaches the spectral correction device is configured to influence the light intensity of a red spectral region (col. 3 lines 53-56).

Regarding claims 18, 25 and 26, Leiter teaches a control computer (23) configured to control the spectral correction device (Figs. 1 and 3; col. 3 lines 32-40).

Art Unit: 2872

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leiter (US 5,022,744).

Regarding claims 8-10, Leiter teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to the specific type of filter used. It is extremely well known in the art to use either an absorption filter, an interference filter or a reflection filter to filter out light of an unwanted wavelength. Official Notice is taken. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Leiter invention include of the above mention types of filters as is known in the art for the purpose of achieving precise and well known results.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leiter (US 5,022,744) in view of Weiss (US 2003/0011910).

Leiter teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to modifying the power to the light source. Weiss teaches controlling the light source by modifying the power delivered to the light source (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Leiter invention include the modification of power to the

Art Unit: 2872

light source as taught by Weiss for the purpose of more precise control over the intensity of the light that incidents the specimen.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed January 3, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues Pierrat has nothing to do with microscopes. Pierrat teaches a wafer viewed using a microscope (col. 5 lines 34-35). Further the amendment to the claim limitations no longer requires the teachings of Pierrat so this argument is moot.

Applicant argues Leiter does not maintain a spectral intensity distribution of light directed onto a specimen unchanged. Leiter teaches the controller (23) connected to the filter motor (9) and the diaphragm motor (26; Fig. 1). The Leiter reference inserts colored filters into the beam path to correct the color temperature to a desired value if the color temperature is measured different from the desired value. The Leiter states, "alteration of illumination due to color filter is compensated," (col. 4 lines 5-6). The Leiter reference therefore maintains the illumination intensity using the diaphragm and the wavelength using the colored filters.

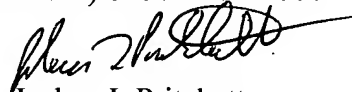
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L. Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

Art Unit: 2872

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone Allen can be reached on 571-272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joshua L Pritchett
Examiner
Art Unit 2872